



**The Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter**

Te whare karakia matua o Pita Tapu ki Waikato  
[stpeter.org.nz](http://stpeter.org.nz)



**Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.**

**- Luke 1:45**

**24 December 2024 – Midnight Mass**

11:00pm

**Choral  
Eucharist**

President &  
Preacher

The Right Rev'd Philip Richardson

**Cathedral Centre Toilet:** The toilet at the near end of the cathedral centre can be accessed during the service, while keeping the rest of the centre secure.

**Service Sheets:** Our service sheets can be accessed at [stpeter.org.nz](http://stpeter.org.nz) and viewed on your phone to save paper and costs. The “CathedralFree” Wi-Fi can be accessed without a password.

## **Health & Safety:**

**In the event of a fire:** exits are the entrance and the doors either side of the front of the main body of the church.

**In the event of an earthquake:** drop to the floor, seek cover, and hold onto something. Only exit when all shaking has stopped.

**Services Online:** Many of our choral services are on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/@WaikatoCathedral](https://youtube.com/@WaikatoCathedral) (older services are on Facebook). The services are usually available live and are generally under the live tab of our YouTube channel. If you need assistance ask a young person or, failing that, ask Dean Julian.

## **Office closure**

The office will be closed from 3pm on Tuesday 24 December. It will re-open on Monday 6 January 2025.

Wednesday midweek services will resume on 15 January 2025.

Friday Te Reo Māori Eucharist will resume on 2 February 2025.

**Thank you:** A huge thank you to everyone who has made the Advent and Christmas seasons at the cathedral so special, from working parties and the flower guild through to the choirs and musicians, including bell ringers, and volunteer clergy and to the stalwarts who magically make things happen and who continue to find new ideas and possibilities to make this so amazing. Thank you all. And, thank you for everyone’s generosity towards the Foodbank. Donations welcome throughout the year!

# Thanksgiving and Praise

A New Zealand Prayer Book, page 476

Music Copyright CCLI 337942

**Mass Setting** Missa Carolae - Whitbourne

## The Ministry of Word and Prayer

The Introit      Silent Night – Arr. Rutter

### The Blessing of the Crib (*which is at the back of the cathedral*)

E te whānau a te Karaiti, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night  
your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary  
for us and for our salvation:

bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;  
may all who see it be strengthened in faith  
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,  
who is alive and reigns for ever.

**All: Amen.**

### Processional Carol (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created:

*O come ....*

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

*O come ....*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God in the highest:

*O come ...*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

*O come ....*

*John Francis Wade (1711-1786)*

## Welcome & Greeting - *(please remain standing / e tū tonu tātou)*

Welcome all wonders in one sight!

Eternity shut in a span.

Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth and God in man.

Great little one whose all-embracing birth  
brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Grace, mercy and peace

from God, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**All: and also with you.**

Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

**Amen. Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation.**

Praise and glory to Christ, God's new beginning for humanity  
making ritual water gospel wine, cleansing all our worship.

**Love and loyalty to Christ, who gives us the gospel.**

**Praise to Christ who calls us to holiness.**

## The Lighting of the Christmas Candle

We light our final candle on the advent wreath as we celebrate the true  
light, which enlightens everyone, coming into the world.

*(c.f. John 1.9)*

God our Father, today the Saviour is born  
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.  
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,  
to live in the light of your Son  
and to share the good news of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who has come into the world. **Amen.**

**All: Lord Jesus, Light of light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light  
to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest. Amen.**

Song of Praise – The Gloria (*sung by the choir, please stand / e tū tātou*)

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Forgiveness (*please be seated or kneel / e noho, e tūturi rānei tātou*)

*Liturgist:*

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth:  
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:  
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:  
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

In silence before God, we confess our sins.

*Silence*

*The presiding priest says*

God forgives you. Forgive others; Forgive yourself. Be at peace.

Rejoice and be glad,

for Christ is resurrection, reconciliation for all the human race.

**All We shall all be one in Christ,  
one in our life together.**

**Praise to God who has created us,**

**praise to God who has accepted us,**

**praise to God who sends us into the world.**

## The Collect

**Almighty God,  
you gave your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him, and be born of the Virgin Mary;  
grant that we, who are born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever. Amen**

## The Readings

*(please sit for the readings / e noho ki te whakarongo ki ngā pānuitanga)*

### A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (9:2-7)

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

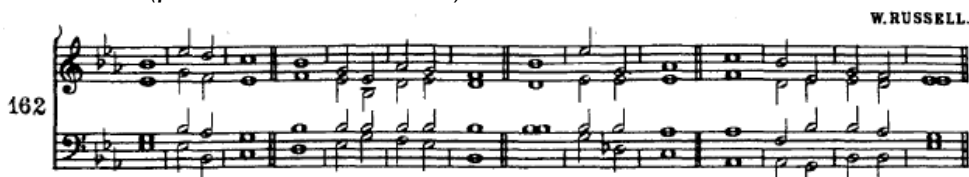
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

[Translation – New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised)]

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96 (please stand / e tū tātou)



- 1 O sing to the Lord a ' new ' song:  
sing to the ' Lord ' all the ' earth.
- 2 Sing, and give praise to ' God's ' name:  
tell the glad news of sal'vation · from ' day to ' day.
- 3 Proclaim God's glory ' to the ' nations:  
God's marvellous ' deeds to ' all the ' peoples.
- 4 For you O Lord are great and highly ' to be ' praised:  
more to be ' feared than ' all the ' gods.
- 5 The gods of the nations are no ' more than ' idols:  
but you O Lord are the ' one who ' made the ' heavens.
- 6 Glory and ' majesty · at'tend you:  
strength and ' beauty · are ' in your ' sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families ' of the ' nations:  
ascribe to the ' Lord ' honour · and ' might.
- 8 Ascribe due honour to God's ' holy ' name:  
bring offerings, and ' enter · the ' courts · of the ' Lord.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the ' beauty · of ' holiness:  
let the ' whole earth ' stand in ' awe.



- 10 Proclaim to the nations, 'The ' Lord is ' king:  
the Lord has made the world so firm it cannot be moved,  
and will ' judge the ' peoples ' with ' justice.'
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and the ' earth be ' glad:  
let the sea roar and ' all the ' creatures ' in it.
- 12 Let the fields be joyful and ' all ' that is ' in them:  
then all the trees of the forest  
will shout with ' joy be'fore the ' Lord.
- 13† For you O Lord are coming to ' judge the ' earth:  
with righteousness you will judge the world,  
and the ' peoples ' with your ' truth.

**Glory to the Father and ' to the ' Son:  
and ' to the ' Holy ' Spirit;  
as it was in the be'ginning . is ' now:  
and shall be for ' ever. ' A- ' men.**

### A reading from the letter to Titus (2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. (NRSVA)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church **Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual Hymn (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Anon

**The Gospel** (*we remain standing and turn to face the gospel | Ka tū tonu tātou ki te whakarongo ki te Rongopai*)

The holy Gospel according to Luke (2:1-14)

### **Praise and glory to God.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' (NRSVA)

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ, the Word.**

The Sermon

## The Affirmation of Faith (*please stand / e tū tatou*)

*Liturgist:* Let us stand and together affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became fully human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
and has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,  
giving thanks for God's goodness.

God of grace

**you hear our prayer.**

God of love

**grant our prayer.**

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

*The intercessor may end with the following responses or a collect:*

Thanksgiving, blessing, and praise be yours, God of the incarnation,  
because you care for us and for our prayer. May our love for you and our  
likeness to you be strengthened every time we pray. **Amen.**

## The Ministry of the Sacrament

The Peace (*please stand / e tū tatou*)

**All:** Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace  
**who breaks down the walls that divide.**

The peace of God be always with you.  
**All: Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.**

*Liturgist:* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Offertory Carol

*During the singing of this hymn a collection will be taken.*

— 1 —

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

— 2 —

O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

## Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**The Great Thanksgiving** *(please stand, sit or kneel as you are most comfortable throughout the following prayer / mō tēnei inoi katoa, e noho, e tū, tūturi rānei i runga anō i tāu e pai nei)*

The Lord is here.

[ANPB, Alternative D, p. A11]

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe,  
to give you thanks through Jesus Christ.

You said, 'Let there be light'; there was light.

Your light shines on in our darkness.

For you the earth has brought forth life in all its forms.

You have created us to hear your Word,  
to do your will and to be fulfilled in your love.

You sent your Son to be for us

the way we need to follow and the truth we need to know.

For Christ is born in Bethlehem, God revealed in human form;  
the baby in a manger, the refugee on the Egypt road.

You send your Holy Spirit  
to strengthen and to guide, to warn and to revive your Church.  
Therefore, with all your witnesses who surround us on every side,  
countless as heaven's stars, we praise you for our creation  
and our calling, with loving and with joyful hearts we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son;  
On that night before he died he took bread and gave you thanks.  
He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks.  
He gave it to them and said:  
Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you, shed for all,  
to forgive sin; do this to remember me.

Therefore with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us.

God of the past and present, we your people remember your Son.  
We thank you for his cross and rising again,  
we take courage from his ascension;  
we look for his coming in glory and in him we give ourselves to you.

We celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who receive Christ's body may indeed be the body of Christ,  
and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite.  
Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.

For you, the heavenly one, make all things new;  
you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first,  
to whom we bring our songs of ever lasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
Here and everywhere,  
Now and forever. Amen.**

## The Communion

***The Lord's Prayer** (You may wish to pray the Lord's Prayer in your own language. The Choir will sing.)*

As Christ teaches us we pray

Kua ākona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki,  
ka ĭnoi tātou

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi  
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.  
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.

**Give us today  
our daily bread.**

Kia meatia tāu e pai ai  
ki runga ki te whenua,  
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

Hōmai ki a mātou āiane  
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.

**Save us from  
the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

Murua ō mātou hara,  
Me mātou hoki e muru nei  
i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.

**For the kingdom,  
the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;  
Engari whakaorāngia mātou i te kino:  
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga,  
te kaha, me te korōria,  
Āke ake ake. Āmine.

## Breaking of the Bread

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.

**Christ is the bread of life.**

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

**Christ is risen from the dead.**

## Agnus Dei (sung by the choir)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us your peace.

## The Invitation

Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

*The minister says the following to each person.*

The bread of life, broken for you.

Te taro o te ora, i whatia nei mou.

The cup of blessing, poured out for you.

Te kapu o te ora, i whakahekea nei mou.

*The communicant may respond each time*                      Amen / Āmine.

*All are welcome to receive communion. If communion is not your tradition, we invite you to come forward for a blessing, simply put an arm across your chest and a blessing will be given.*

*Please come forward and kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive the bread and wine or a blessing. Please ask if you need a gluten free wafer.*

*In the Anglican tradition, we use the common cup, with wine of a high alcohol content, in a silver vessel, to minimise infection risks. If you do not wish to receive the wine, communion is fully valid in one kind, either bread or wine, or you may wish to simply lift the cup, to show reverence and receive spiritually.*

*Please note, the practice of intinction is not permitted.*

*If you would like to light a candle for someone you love, or to give thanks to God, please feel free to do so at the back of the cathedral.*



**Anthem**      The choir will sing a selection of anthems

## Prayer After Communion

Blessed be God who calls us together.

**All: Praise to God who makes us one people.**

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

**All: Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.**

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

**All: Praise to God who is revealed as love.**

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

**All: Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.**

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

**All: Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done.  
Our hands were empty, and you filled them.**

## Blessing (*please stand / e tū tātou*)

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son  
from before the foundation of the world,  
shed that love upon you his children.

**All: Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace.

**All: Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,  
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

**All: Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of  
Life, be upon you and remain with you, with those whom you love,  
and with those whom you struggle to love, this night and always.

**All: Amen.**

## Closing Carol

— 1 —

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.*

— 2 —

Christ, by highest Heav’n adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time, behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th’incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel. (*Refrain*)

— 3 —

Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die.  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. (*Refrain*)

*Charles Wesley, George Whitefield,  
Martin Madan and others altered*

## The Dismissal of the Community

*Liturgist:* Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

**All:** **Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

*The service concludes with the organ voluntary, for which you are warmly invited to remain. If you wish to leave following the recession of clergy and choir, please do so quietly so that the voluntary may be fully appreciated.*

**Voluntary:** Jubilation No. 3: Toccata, Dennis Janzer (b. 1954)



## Cathedral Ministry Team and Contacts

Dean: The Very Rev'd Julian Perkins (Day off- Friday)  
deanjulian@stpeter.org.nz | 020 4124 6555

### Volunteer Ministry Team Members

Assistant priest: The Rev'd Canon Bryan Smith  
canonassistant@stpeter.org.nz

Assistant priest: The Rev'd Robin Olds  
pastoralcare@stpeter.org.nz | 027 441 9292

Assistant priest: The Rev'd Wendy Tyrrell  
bells@stpeter.org.nz

People's warden: Heather Powell  
peopleswarden@stpeter.org.nz | 021 386 207

Dean's warden: Dianne Cameron  
deanswarden@stpeter.org.nz | 021 588 399

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## Giving

**Bank Details: 02-0316-0268898-000**

The ministry of the cathedral is paid for by our church members if you can be a part of this it greatly helps the life of the church.

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## Cathedral Office

Monday-Friday: 9am-3pm | (07) 839 4683 | admin@stpeter.org.nz

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## Cathedral Shop

Monday-Friday: 10am-2pm; Sunday: 11am-12pm | (07) 839 4683

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